



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
for
Wednesday, September 24 2003
Council Chamber Boardroom – 4:00 P.M.
and
Art Pick Council Chambers – 5:30 P.M.
3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA

CASE REVIEW – 4:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Brewer, Garcia, Gardner, Huerta, and Ward

Absent: Commissioners Davidson, Howe, Percy, and O'Meara

Public Comment

There were no public comments on Closed Session items.

Closed Session – Case Reviews

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, the Commission adjourned to Closed Session at 4:07 p.m. to discuss issues pertaining to PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.

<u>CPRC CASE NO.</u>	<u>IA CASE NO.</u>
03-013	PC-03-057-224
03-024	PC-03-088-297
03-035	PC-03-122-325
03-036	PC-03-126-200
03-046	PC-03-169-111
03-054	PC-03-226-220

The Commission recessed at 5:25 p.m. to reconvene in the Council Chambers at 5:37 p.m.

OPEN SESSION – 5:30 P.M.

**The following proceedings have been digitally recorded.
For copies, please call the CPRC office at (909) 826-5509.**

Chairman Gardner led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Gardner asked Ms. Sherron to confirm commissioner attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Gardner noted that he had inadvertently skipped over approval of the minutes and that it would be done now. Commissioner Ward moved to approve the minutes for the August regular meeting and the September 10 case review meeting. Commissioner Huerta seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight ayes and one abstention for August and unanimously for the September case review.

Executive Director's Report & Comments

Mr. Williams advised the commissioners that the CPRC now has all OIS case books. He also advised that the Muñoz administrative casebook is also in the office and will be scheduled for the Oct regular meeting.

Mr. Williams spoke about the NACOLE conference, which was held in Los Angeles. He said that they keep improving in that they are more balanced with better topics. He said the conference is improving every year. NACOLE is growing both in personnel and the number of member organizations. The NACOLE Board is looking at funding for full time staff.

NACOLE 2004 will be in Chicago. NACOLE 2005 will be somewhere on the East Coast. There is no commitment by the NACOLE Board beyond 2005.

Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Howe said he attended the conference also. One of the sessions he attended had to do with the Oakland Riders, a group of rogue police officers in Oakland, California. He learned that there were around 125 false arrests made by these officers before they were turned in by a rookie officer. Oakland has paid around \$11 million in compensatory damages so far.

Commissioner Howe went to another session about civilian oversight and the best practices and strategies to counter resistance. He said the five-person panel included a police chief, a police union representative, and a civilian oversight person. He spoke to the POA representative, a police sergeant, after the session was over. Commissioner Howe asked this man what he thought about retired law enforcement officers being on the commission. The sergeant replied saying they shouldn't be there because they've been out of it too long and they don't know what's going on out on the street. He also said the officers carry high-tech weapons now as compared to "six-shots" that were used in the past. Commissioner Howe wasn't able to ask him any other questions, but wondered what that has to do with what the Commission reviews. He said, "It just goes to show you the attitude of how some of these officers...you know, the attitude that they have is weapons. They're thinking weapons all the time and that's got nothing to do with investigating the complaint."

Commissioner Huerta said that she attended several sessions, including some that Commissioner Howe attended. She said one of the sessions was about mediation. She thought it was very interesting and felt it would be a good workshop topic.

Commissioner Huerta also felt the conference was a good networking opportunity. She said she was able to talk to commissioners from other organizations as well as people in administrative positions like that of the executive director. She said it was a great experience and well worth the money spent.

Commissioner O'Meara said the conference was outstanding and was glad he was able to attend. He said there was a lot of information available and felt it benefited everyone who attended.

Commissioner Garcia praised L. A. County Sheriff Lee Baca's introductory remarks at the conference. He said he enjoyed the workshops and the networking opportunities. He suggested inviting our investigator to the next conference along with RPOA representatives and city officials so they can see what the commission does.

Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee

Commissioner Percy, Outreach Committee Chair, said he spoke to the various people responsible for bringing the conference to L.A. this year and Chicago next year. He also spoke to the NACOLE committee responsible for deciding the location of upcoming conferences about the criteria on which they base their decisions.

He said they had thought the conference would go to the east coast and then back to the west which would give Riverside a chance to host the conference in 2005. That is not what was ultimately decided, but the Commission is hoping that Riverside can host the 2006 NACOLE conference.

Commissioner Percy said that after talking with these different people, he learned that it is going to take more work on the part of the Commission than original thought. He said that NACOLE is made up of volunteers from various oversight groups from around the country and they have no paid staff. One of the considerations when deciding the conference location is staff support from the hosting city. The board is also looking for incentives such as \$10,000 cash donation made by the L. A. County ombudsman for NACOLE's use to secure conference rooms, hospitality rooms, personnel and supplies. He said they were also provided man-hours by the L. A. County ombudsman and the Inspector General for the City of Los Angeles. L. A. County also did much of the printing required for the conference. He said the man responsible for bringing the conference to Chicago said he'd gone to various businesses in the city and obtained commitment letters pledging monetary support to defray NACOLE's cost.

There were also issues regarding travel and lodging that had not been considered prior to the conference. Commissioner Percy concluded that it would take a greater effort to bring the conference to Riverside than they had realized. He said it would take a concerted effort for the Commission to get financial support from local businesses, and there would be dealings with the City and possibly the Convention Bureau to help show a compelling reason for people to come to Riverside.

Mr. Williams said Riverside's competition would possibly be San Francisco, San Jose, Portland, Seattle, and potentially Hawaii. Commissioner Percy said it would also help if NACOLE could be shown how things had been "pre-packaged" for them, such as speakers on certain topics. Commissioner Percy said Los Angeles also had a leg up in that they the City and the County pooling resources. He said the easier it can be made for NACOLE, the more attractive it will be for them.

Workshop Committee

Chairman Gardner asked Commissioner Huerta if she would like to be the third member of the committee. She said she would.

Commissioner Ward the workshop idea had started a while back when he had questions and concerns about some of the ways in which the Commission conducted its business. He met with the City Attorney to get some clarification on some issue he had regarding how the Commission conducts its business. The City Attorney suggested that the Commission meet to discuss the various issues.

Commissioner Ward said the workshop would be used to first identify the Commission's weaknesses, then clarify its purpose, and then unify its efforts. He referred to the memo given to the commissioners regarding some of the issues raised in the brainstorming session he had with Commissioner Garcia. He reviewed the proposed workshop agenda and then opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Brewer said the proper forum to discuss the issues raised in the memo would be a workshop, not the current meeting.

Chairman Gardner said the purpose of this discussion was to decide whether or not we to hold a workshop and then to bring an agenda to the Commission. He also noted that only half of the committee has made recommendations. He said he feels that additional meeting of the committee is needed.

Commissioner Brewer suggested that the Commission vote on whether or not to have workshop and then the Committee meet to set up the workshop agenda.

Chairman Gardner said he first wanted to see if anyone else had any comments regarding the Commissioner Ward's memo. He didn't feel it was "quite a final document yet," but was a good start.

Commissioner Huerta said she feels there is a need for a workshop, but that Saturday is not a good day for a workshop. She suggested four-hour blocks on Wednesdays.

Commissioner Percy said he was in favor of the workshop, but felt that all commissioners should have input into the topics, not just ratification. Chairman Gardner said he'd like to see the committee "make another cut" of the proposed agenda topics. He said there was no intent to limit input from any commissioner, but felt things would progress quicker if a small group put it together to bring to the Commission for review and comment.

Mary Shelton

Ms. Shelton praised the person who thought of the workshop. She said two issues she felt were important were independent investigations and the Commission's subpoena power. She also thought it was a good idea to include the original steering committee in a portion of the workshop. She said the current commission model is not what the steering committee had actually wanted. She said that some of the problems the Commission is grappling with are similar to those of the steering committee. She said she feels it is very important determine where the Commission is going.

Commissioner Ward said the issue was not brought as a finished product, but was brought to the Commission for discussion. He said that the commissioners still have the opportunity to add to the discussion. Commissioner Garcia added by saying that the memo lists only possible workshop topics and that date and time are flexible.

Chairman Gardner asked the Commission to decide on whether or not they want a workshop. Commissioner Brewer made a motion to approve the workshop. Commissioner Howe seconded the

motion. Approval was unanimous.

The Commission adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

PHOEBE SHERRON
Sr. Office Specialist